

SECRETINFORMATION FOR DDCI TRIP TO INDIA

The Indians have a radio monitoring service (IMS). It is part of All India Radio and, presumably, is modeled on the BBC Monitoring Service. We have virtually no recent information on this service. At one time, the IMS was located in Simla, in the foothills of the Himalayas, about the 7,000 foot level. Their antenna field was located about 1,000 feet higher and, according to outdated BBC information, had an extended range of audibility. Much of their listening was concentrated on China. They apparently produced their transcripts in English.

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In 1979 a senior FBIS officer asked the then Head of BBC External Service to contact the IMS, during a visit the latter was making to India, with the idea that an exchange of information in some form might be possible. He found that the IMS was in the process of relocating to Delhi. Whether or not the antenna field also was being relocated was not learned. The Indians suggested that BBC return for further talks after the relocation was completed. BBC did not have expectations of this contact developing into anything productive, owing to Mrs. Gandhi's intense dislike of the BBC, and did not follow through.

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An exchange of overt monitored information with the Indians is an idea that may still be worth pursuing, but we need an updated description of the assets and capabilities of the IMS. The subject of a possible visit to the IMS by a representative from FBIS would be worth exploring.

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